

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Bisley
On Saturday 11th June 2010 from 2.00pm

Present

Chairman: Dr R Pizer

Members: Mr GK Alexander
Mr GV Barnard
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Mr DP Calvert
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson
Mr JH Carmichael
Lt Col ARK Clayton
Mr PR Coley
Maj SB Fraser
Mr EJ Gardener
Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz
Prof AR Horrocks
Mr P Hunter
Mr JN Kynoch
Mr GAE Larcombe
Mr CC Mallett
Mr MF Martel
Mr CJ Murton
Mr K Nash
Mr RE Nott
Flt Lt IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr AJD Saunders
Miss J Scrimshaw
Mr IW Shirra Gibb
Mr JD Warburton
Mr DD Watt
Mr RHF Wills
Mr DG Young

In attendance:

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary General
Mr MJ Ensor	-	Assistant Director of Operations
Mr JC Ragg	-	Council Member
Mr JE Staples	-	Managing Director NSC
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence: Mr HRM Bailie, Mrs ID Bennett, Mr MJ Black, Mr CM Brooks, Mr DGF Evans, Mr CN Farr, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Maj MG Farnan, Mr GMLN Gilpin, Mr M Maksimovic, Col WJ O'Leary, Brig JR Smales, Mr MP Watkins, Mr James Watson, Mr John

Watson.

G206 - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2010 (G197)

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 20th February 2010 were received and agreed.

G207 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G198)

The Minutes of the meeting of 9th April 2010 were received and adopted.

Matters arising.

M234 - It was reported that the Membership Committee recommended that the membership fee for 2011 remain at £60 and £55 for direct debit. The meeting was informed that this recommendation may have to change to comply with Gift Aid requirements if the insurance premiums were to rise for 2011.

G208 - SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G199)

The draft Minutes of the meeting of 13th May 2010 were received.

Matters arising

S603 - Chamber Check Procedure. Concern was expressed over the position of shooters, particularly those who live away from Bisley having to comply with the latest Chamber Checking Procedure as proposed by the Shooting Committee for 2010.

The status of existing previously issued green stickers was questioned. Equally the point was made that shooters were likely to resist the proposed use of new unspecified chamber gauges. The point was made that people would not want unknown gunsmiths inserting gauges, potentially scoring the chamber and they would question the quality of work proposed to their rifles when the intention is to hand ream the barrels. Furthermore, competitors who in innocence will believe they are shooting the Meeting with a legal rifle may find that they are not and run the risk of being disqualified if it cannot be remedied in a very short time.

It was reported that no gauges currently existed, and it was asked if they were made prior to the Meeting how many would exist and who would be authorised to produce an official gauge.

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee responded that nowhere did the Minutes say that the green sticker system would be removed and that the testing used on the firing point last year was advertised as an indicative test and a person did not get disqualified because their rifle failed, there was a requirement to get the rifle checked if it failed.

It was reported that to check a rifle in the areas where it was most likely to fail (the throat or neck area), this can be done with a drop in gauge, some of which had already been made.

It was agreed that the green sticker system and current 2009 procedure would remain in place for 2010.

A new procedure and agreed method of checking rifle chambers would be developed for consideration by the Shooting Committee and the Council for 2011.

Action: G208a: Iain Robertson to refer the matter back to the Shooting Committee for further consideration.

G209 - NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G200)

The Minutes of the meetings of 22nd March and 12th May 2010 were received.

Matters arising.

22nd March 2010

N822 – Finance. A question was asked concerning the minus figure shown against Imperial entries which did not reflect the entries received.

It was reported that the figure shown was a budgeted figure where the budget had been incorrectly phased and it was not a matter of timing as shown.

A further comment was made on the variances shown against range hire and clay sales which were difficult to understand. The Treasurer reported that the figures concerned referred to financial activity in the first few months of the year. Regretfully these figures are relatively meaningless because we do not know how well we are doing financially and commercially until later in the year.

N819 – RUAG – Ammunition Storage. A question was asked as to whether there was enough storage available. It was reported that because of a shortfall in ammunition storage facilities the NRA and NSC were developing additional storage facilities in agreement with Surrey Police. The cost of the new storage was estimated at £20,000.

12 May 2010

N840 – Zero Range. The NSC was congratulated on the work carried out on the Zero Range which had made it more usable.

G210 - THE COUNCIL (G201)

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11th February, and 15th April 2010 and Written Resolutions T874 dated 15th February, T875 dated 22nd February, T876 dated 8th March T877 dated 28th April, T899 dated 7th May, T900 dated 16th May, T901 dated 17th May and T902 27th May, 2010 were received.

Matters arising.

1. 11th February 2010

T863 – Ammunition. A question was asked as to whether the RUAG contract was calculated in Euros. The meeting was advised that the contract was calculated in sterling but within that the escalation or de-escalation of the euro would still have an effect.

2. 15th April 2010 – Confidential Meeting

T897 – Non-Executive Directors. A request was made that the Non-Executive Directors

of NSC be introduced to the NRA. It was reported that the details of the Directors would be publicised via the NRA Journal.

3. 15th April 2010 - Main Meeting

Action T878a – Queens Lodge. An opinion was expressed that the statement in the Minutes was incorrect and that it should be struck from the Minutes or withdrawn in the next set of Minutes. The MD of NSC advised that the tenants of Queens Lodge had been written to on several occasions by Strutt & Parker but had received no response and no official notice that the rent review had been accepted, although the rent had recently been paid at the new amount.

Action G210a: The MD of NSC was asked to seek legal advice as to whether payment of the rent was considered an acceptance or whether the tenants were required to sign the rent review memorandum and refer the matter back to the Council.

4. Returned RUAG Empty Cases

A question was asked on the progress of the sale of returned empty cases from 2009 and its effect on the financial outcome of the meeting and meeting entry costs. The meeting was advised that the NSC had been unable to date to find a buyer for the returned 2009 cases at an appropriate price. Concern was expressed that the current 10p per empty figure that was being paid for returned cases was in excess of their true value. The meeting was informed that there would be consideration given to reducing the amount paid for returned cases, while at the same time NSC were still looking for a commercial opportunity to reuse or sell-on the cases. It was suggested that NSC put the cases up for tender. The Committee was informed that the matter was to be discussed at the NSC Board meeting of 16th June,

5. T881 – Infrastructure & Road Repairs. It was reported that Ringway would no longer be re-laying the roads on Camp as their senior management were of the opinion that the NRA's charity status did not fall within their charitable ideals. However, it was still hoped that they would provide the materials and instruction for Estate Staff for remedial pot-hole work.

T881 – Owning the Night. The MD of NSC updated the meeting on the OTN position in that negotiations with the organisers over the preparation of the legal documentation had come to a halt and that OTN would not be taking place at Bisley in 2010, The General Council were informed that other exhibitors had shown an interest in holding events at Bisley (2 military and 1 non-military) in 2011. It was requested that NSC keep a full record of revenue and cost in relation to running of these events in order to affect a full cost recovery.

Action 210b: MD of NSC to ensure that full staff costs were included in the costings for future events.

T888 – Trench Experience. Following a question, the Secretary General explained the facts leading up to civil action claim against the NRA, in the sum of £7k. Having explained the sequence of events the Secretary General chose to make no comment on the merits of the Trench Experience action, leaving the General Council to reach their own conclusions.

G211 – GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS & VACANCIES (G193)

The meeting received the notification of up coming elections for General Council Committees

and Council.

The Chairman proposed a process for the selection and nomination of legal members of the Disciplinary Body. He proposed that an interview panel consisting of David Frank (Trustee), David Evans (Chairman Disciplinary Body) and a lay member of the General Council (to be nominated by 20 June) call for interview those individuals with legal qualifications that have volunteered to sit on the Committee including those members offering themselves for re-election. This panel will recommend a list of suitable applicants to the General Council who will then fill the vacancies by election from the list at the September meeting. The procedure was agreed by the Meeting. The lay member vacancy would be filled without an interview procedure by General Council electing or re-electing two of their number.

G212 - MANAGEMENT OF TRAFFIC ON CAMP

It was reported that the Shooting Committee had felt that their recommendations relating to the use of electric buggies at Bisley had not been fully considered by the NSC Board or by the Council. As a result the Shooting Committee had requested that the matter be referred to the General Council for their information and view.

After discussion it was recommend that golf buggies should be treated in the same way as road vehicles as per Camp Standing Orders.

The decision, by NSC, to allow golf buggies access to the firing points was upheld with a review to be carried out by NSC in the Autumn after the Imperial Meeting.

It was pointed out to the meeting that the actual issue relating to this matter stated

“It was felt that there was a need for an entire traffic management review with increasing use of vehicles and buggies, potentially having an adverse impact upon the Bisley environment. The Committee expressed the view that the review should look at the use of Bisley roads, parking provision, access to ranges and enforcement, taking into account future use and needs.”

It was agreed that the wider consideration of traffic management for the National Shooting Centre should be referred to NSC to consider.

G213 - BISLEY DEVELOPMENT (G203)

The meeting was informed that the CNC development had grown in scope and scale, creating delays in both funding and planning delivery. The CNC consultants plan had been presented to the Police Authority and to the Government for high level approval, which was anticipated could take 2-3 months.

Having agreed the CNC plan, which will act as the enabling development, consideration could then be given to the building of chalets for members.

G214 - GB & NRA TEAM CAPTAINS

The meeting received a list of the currently nominated GB and NRA Team Captains.

Australia Match	2010	Martin Townsend
Kolapore	2010	Jeremy Thompson

Bisley U25	2010	Sandy Walker
Gallery Rifle	2010	Ashley Dagger
Australia Vets	2011	Eric Stuart Bamford
Australia U25	2011	James Lothian
Palma Match	2011	John Webster
Canada TR	2011	David Richards
Channel Islands	2011	Charles Dickenson
South Africa TR	2012	Iain Robertson
Canada TR	2012	Jeremy Langley
GB F Class Open USA	2013	David Kent
GB F Class TR USA	2013	Stuart Anslem

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

G215 - CARAVAN RENTAL PAYMENTS

Concern was expressed regarding the late notification of caravan rent invoices to members, which was bound to have an adverse financial effect on the Associations financial position.

A proposal was made that caravan and other rental charges be based upon a single annual charge rather than the current summer and winter billing process. The point was made that this would reduce administration and cost for the Association and make life simpler for the member. Payment methods could be optional. If the member chose to pay by Direct Debit the Association could chose to take the money monthly, quarterly or annually thereby assisting cash flow.

G216 -PROCEDURE & RULES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TR GB AND NRA TEAM CAPTAINS

A request was made that the procedure carried out by the Shooting Committee for election of TR team captains by TR members of the General Council be formalised and be introduced for all team captaincy elections.

It was explained that the current process for TR could not be made to fit all other disciplines because of their individual sub-committee arrangements. Equally, the Council is the only body within the Association that has the authority to approve tours and the selection of captains for GB because it is the Council that would be held responsible for any such decision. It was requested that the procedures be formalised in that there should be a vote by the General Council on the selection of the captain and it should be binding on the Council

Action G216a: Iain Robertson and Shooting Committee to consult with Shooting Discipline Committees and report to Council.

G217 – LANDMARC LICENSE FEES

A complaint was made against Landmarc for the overcharging of civilian use of Thetford MoD range.

The meeting was advised that formally Thetford came under the control of the RAF and was thus outside the authority of Landmark. In this case as with some other unit run ranges higher and lower charges than those nationally agreed with Landmarc were sometimes being charged. If

Landmarc now run Thetford they should be adhering to the national agreement charging regime.

ActionG217a: Glynn Alger to refer to Chris Webb to resolve the matter with Landmarc centrally.

G218 – RANGE ALLOCATION/CANCELLATIONS

Concern was expressed regarding the introduction of the NSC cancellation policy. The view was expressed that 2 weeks notice of cancellation was too long a period which was likely to have an adverse effect on how flexible clubs could be when booking ranges. The point was made that this policy would have an adverse effect on the financial position for clubs that are already struggling. It was agreed to run the system for the remainder of 2010 and for the NSC to review and report.

Further complaints were made about the lack of notice given to clubs, when new policy is introduced prior to ensuring the new changes have been adequately publicised. A view was expressed that there was also a problem with late notification to clubs that their range booking had been cancelled.

It was explained that the cancellation of bookings was a rare event but it did occur due to in some cases priority being given to some booking over others and in some cases due to human error. The introduction of the third edition of the new on-line booking system should largely eradicate this problem. The meeting was informed that where a cancellation had taken place every effort was made to offer an alternative booking. The point was made that some of the problem is due to the increased use of Bisley by clubs to the extent that business was improving 10% year on year, which was bound to cause some organisational pressures.

It was confirmed that priority was given to the major NRA and club bookings on the shooting calendar, allowing the Range Office to accommodate clubs around those events.

G219 – MoD & RANGE WARDENS OVERTIME

The issue was raised that a major reason for the rise in the use of Bisley was the difficulty in being able to book military ranges.

The meeting was informed that there should be less pressure for the MoD to use ranges at the weekend and greater opportunity for clubs. The meeting was informed that in a number of cases the MoD are limiting range use at weekends, quoting the need to let their staff have time off, when in reality the Range Wardens have expressed their desire to work.

G219 Action: Glynn Alger to direct Chris Webb to discuss this matter with the MoD and Landmarc to ensure improved access to MoD ranges

G220 – USE OF SERVICE WEAPONS BY CIVILIANS

A questioner made the point that as the Army were using .338 at Bisley would it be possible for civilian shooters to be given permission to shoot similar rifles at Bisley. The meeting was informed that the Army were conducting their shooting as a result of operational necessity. This would not be the case for civilians, thus there were no current plans to reconsider the use of .338 at Bisley for their use.

G221 – ELECTRONIC TARGETS

A question was asked about the availability of electronic targets and their future use at Bisley.

The meeting was informed that the targets had all been removed in preparation for the Imperial Meeting, during which time they would be serviced.

The meeting was further advised that the problems experienced with the electronic targets were two fold, firstly being a design fault (antenna interference) and the other being of internal management/maintenance. To remedy the first of these problems the units were being upgraded with new antenna. The second issue was being improved by improved training and the introduction of strict maintenance and servicing schedules.

G222 – CUMBRIAN SHOOTING TRAGEDY

The Secretary General stated:

“The NRA’s response to the Cumbria Incident commenced at 11am on the morning of the shooting, when we were informed that there was an ongoing incident in Cumbria. At that stage the NRA contacted the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) and the British Association of Shooting & Conservation (BASC) to discuss joint working with them and the other shooting bodies into how we should manage the incident. As a result of those early interventions BASC managed the media in terms of TV, while we and the other organisations managed things like radio broadcasts and press enquiries. What actually happened following that according to the media and politicians in terms of feedback is that the ‘heat’, as a result of the interventions that we made, at that early stage, had gone out of the incident. The main message that was sent by all the main shooting organisations was that we hoped the Government would not act too quickly in relation to legislation on shooting, thus making similar mistakes to those post Dunblane and Hungerford. We know this to be correct as a result of direct advice from MPs. The MP’s have generously offered to keep us informed and have offered to help going forward in terms of any debates in the House on this issue. They did assure us that within Government the view was that this thing should be played ‘long’ and there shouldn’t be a quick reaction to the incident. In our meeting with BSSC all of the major shooting bodies in the UK were represented and present at that meeting. The agreed strategy going forward, contrary to our positioning on previous occasions, was that we would make an offer to Government and the Home Office that we would like to be actively involved in discussions in relation to how best shooting ought to be managed going forward in relation to their particular requirements. The issue is that in the past our reaction to changes to legislation have been that we would say “no” and we work up from there to a position where something would be enforced upon us. The position that I discussed with BSSC and the one that they have actually adopted is that we would have a more positive and joint approach to the Home Office. We would offer to put actual resource or subject experts into the Home Office to assist them with any necessary changes to legislation that may help us and at the same time we would look at the whole issue of offering self regulation of the sport, being orchestrated across the shooting environment by the NGBs. So that’s where we currently are with the BSSC. At the end of the day the hope is that we are actually going to give the Government some answers to their current dilemma because we had a political advisor present during the meeting and his advice to us was that the Government at this point in time did not want to take any steps leading to further legislation in relation to shooting. That is the advice at this point in time of both Government and their political advisors, but shooting needs to be able to offer some assistance to the Government allowing them ‘to be seen to be doing something’. If that need to be doing something originates from the shooting bodies and that something is a self regulation exercise that would be preferable to something being forced upon us.”

The meeting closed at 5.00pm

Chairman

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>		<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Friday	10 th September 2010	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Saturday	19th February 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday	10 th June 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
	Followed by the AGM	5.30p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday	9 th September 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion